

# **FUEL SAVING TIPS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**William O. Howland, Jr., Director**

Hi, I'm William Howland, Director of the Department of Public Works.

We fuel the District government's fleet of more than 6,000 vehicles. Today's high prices make saving fuel a part of our daily work.

We thought you and your family could use these same tips to help save on fuel so you can spend your money on other things.

Whether you are driving for vacation or to and from work, try these fuel tips to help stretch your gas mileage:

## **1. Don't top off your gas tank when refueling.**

You are wasting money, polluting the air and the ground water. Those few extra drops you squeeze out can spill on the ground or evaporate into the air. Either way, you paid for nothing.

## **2. Cut out unnecessary idling.**

Idling burns up gas, so just turn off the engine. Restarting an engine uses about the same amount of gas as idling for 30 seconds.

## **3. Don't speed.**

The faster you drive, the more air your car pushes out of the way. Your engine works harder and uses more fuel. So don't speed.

## **4. Accelerate smoothly.**

Cars use extra fuel when accelerating, so avoid quick starts and sudden stops.

## **5. Keep tires properly inflated.**

Under-inflated tires need more fuel to roll, and they are unsafe. Have your mechanic or tire store check your tire pressure monthly.

## **6. Keep it clean.**

Believe it or not, a clean, waxed car improves aerodynamic efficiency, which can mean fewer trips to the pump. Not only that, a clean car just looks better.

Try these tips and you just may find yourself with more money in your pocket to spend on your vacation. For more information about DPW services, visit us at [www.dpw.dc.gov](http://www.dpw.dc.gov).